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LETTER DATED 1 AUGUST 1994 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to draw to your attention a communiqué on Bosnia and Herzegovina which was issued on 30 July 1994 by the Troika of the European Union and the Foreign Ministers of the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

We would be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hervé LADSOUS
Deputy Permanent Representative
of France

(Signed) Fuliy VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation

(Signed) Stephen GOMERSALL
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland

(Signed) Madeleine Korbel ALBRIGHT
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America

Annex

Communiqué on Bosnia and Herzegovina issued on 30 July 1994

The Foreign Ministers of Germany, Greece, and France and the European Union Commissioner for External Affairs (representing the Troika of the European Union), the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Secretary of State of the United States of America, together with the Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, met at Geneva on 30 July 1994.

In evaluating the responses of the Bosnian parties to the territorial proposal presented to them on 6 July by the Contact Group, the Ministers underscored their firm belief that the principles for a settlement set forth in their communiqué of 13 May and the territorial proposal reviewed by the Ministers at their 5 July meeting at Geneva offer a reasonable and realistic basis for a settlement.

In this regard, the Ministers reaffirmed the importance of achieving a settlement that preserves Bosnia and Herzegovina as a union within its internationally recognized borders, while providing for constitutional arrangements that establish the relationship between the Bosniac-Croat and Bosnian Serb entities. They also expressed their firm view that the settlement should provide for refugees and displaced persons to have the possibility to return freely to their homes of origin.

The Ministers welcomed the Bosniac-Croat delegation's acceptance of the Contact Group's proposal and urged the Bosnian Government to maintain its commitment to this proposal and to a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Bosnia.

The Ministers expressed their profound regret that the Bosnian Serb delegation did not accept the Contact Group's proposal. They called upon the Bosnian Serb leadership to reconsider urgently their response and to provide a clear acceptance of the Contact Group's proposal.

The Ministers emphasized that acceptance of the Contact Group's proposal is the essential first step for achieving an equitable and balanced overall settlement covering all relevant issues, and that they are determined to use incentives and disincentives as agreed on 5 July to this end. In this regard, the Ministers reaffirmed that acceptance of the Contact Group proposal will bring important benefits for all parties.

Against this background, the Ministers:

1. Agreed that proposals will be put to the Security Council to extend sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and to tighten enforcement of the existing sanctions regime. They agreed that a

draft resolution to this effect should be submitted to the Security Council as soon as possible for early adoption.

2. Decided that, simultaneously, as agreed on 5 July, a draft resolution concerning suspension of sanctions will be prepared, to be submitted to the Security Council immediately upon acceptance by the Bosnian Serbs of the Contact Group's map.

3. Underlined the need for vigorous action to prevent sanctions violations across borders, and agreed that international cooperation with the neighbouring States should be developed to promote strict enforcement of the sanctions regime.

4. Called upon all parties to respect the cease-fire, demanded an immediate end to attacks and provocations against United Nations personnel and the United Nations airlift operation, condemned in strongest terms the taking of United Nations personnel as hostages, and insisted that freedom of movement for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) be respected.

5. Warned against any renewed effort to effect the strangulation of Sarajevo.

6. Expressed their commitment to strengthen the regime of safe areas and requested finalization of planning to permit strict enforcement and extension of exclusion zones, including at each stage appropriate provision for the safety of UNPROFOR troops.

The Ministers reiterated that in the event of continuing rejection of the Contact Group proposal, as a last resort a decision in the Security Council to lift the arms embargo could become unavoidable. They also agreed that this would have consequences for the presence of UNPROFOR.

Noting the wider situation in the former Yugoslavia and the importance of addressing the fundamental causes of instability in the region, the Ministers urged mutual recognition between all states of the former Yugoslavia. They support the immediate resumption of talks between the Croatian Government and local Serb authorities in the United Nations Protected Areas.

The Ministers will monitor the situation closely and agreed to continue their common effort to achieve a political settlement and, meanwhile, to prevent the conflict from spreading.